

PRESIDENT MOUL: The house is under call. Would all unexcused senators please return to the Chamber and record their presence. All unauthorized personnel must leave the floor. Would the senators please check in. The house is under call. Senator Hartnett, do you wish to take call-in votes?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes.

CLERK: Senator Byars voting yes.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Looking for Senators Abboud, Bernard-Stevens, Morrissey, Senator Chambers, Senator Rogers, Senator Dierks, Senator Rod Johnson.

CLERK: Senator Abboud voting yes. Senator Beyer voting yes. Senator Moore voting yes.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate.

PRESIDENT MOUL: We have ceased debate. I would ask the Senators to continue to check in while I recognize Senator Wehrbein for closing.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam President, members of the Legislature, to me this is simply a policy choice. We're making a major change in a long-time policy in Nebraska if we allow this to continue to happen. I recognize many of you think there may be alternative sources and I would support some alternative sources, but it should not be, I repeat, should not be the Highway Trust Fund. That was set up years ago. It has worked successfully in Nebraska. Nebraska is going to have a continuing long-term need for good roads in Nebraska. I would ask you to consider if you'd ask the average person on the street whether they've just paid their taxes on their car or whether you'd catch them cold on the street corner, do you want your money that is now supporting roads in Nebraska, the tax that you pay on your vehicles when you register them, do you want them now to go to pay for teachers? And it may be a difficult question for many of them, I acknowledge. But I would hazard a guess the majority of them would say no, let's keep our gas tax and our sales tax on our vehicles where it belongs, supporting roads that everyone uses in Nebraska and let's